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AUG 4 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION

SUBJECT: BKI Views on Balli Kombetar Activities

1. — reports that a BKI representative has expressed the view that the present extensive recruitment in the Balli Kombetar represents a Tito-inspired move, made in cooperation with the British, to overthrow the Hoxha Government.

2. The BKI views are stated to be as follows:

- a. Sajd Kryeziu, who is recruiting in the Balli Kombetar, is forced to follow the lead of his brother, Cani, inasmuch as the latter, in his capacity of President of the "Albanian Liberation Committee" in Skoplje, is under the physical control of the Yugoslavs. It is said that Sajd Kryeziu recently received 500 gold Napoleons from Cani.
- b. Tito, having found the British (in the persons of [] []) willing to cooperate, has been persuaded to camouflage as a nationalist revolt the overthrow of the Hoxha regime.
- c. The leadership of the Balli Kombetar consists predominantly of Communists who lost out in the struggle for power. These persons, including Zef Pali, Abas Ermeni, and Vasil Andoni, are alleged to be quite willing to cooperate with Tito if they are thus able to regain power. Until then, the BKI says, they will continue to hide behind the respectable nationalism of Midhat Frasheri, whom in fact they control.
- d. Abas Kupa and Midhat Frasheri are said to have suddenly renounced Albanian claims to the Kosovo region so as to be acceptable to Tito.
- e. Abas Kupa is alleged to have attempted to draw Marka Gjoni away from the BKI and gain his cooperation; the basis for this attempt is that any invasion from the north would require the assistance of the Mirdites and the knowledge that the BKI will not renounce Albanian claims to the Kosovo area.

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f. Abas Ermeni is reportedly now in Trieste, and Midhat Frasheri and Abas Kupa departed at the end of July for Venice and probably for Trieste. The BKI sees no reason for these trips unless the persons in question are going on to Yugoslavia.

3. The field suggests that serious consideration be given to the possibility of a tie-up between Tito and the Kryeziu brothers.

OSO Comment: We are not in a position to determine whether the views contained in para. 2 above represent the bona fide view of the BKI, or constitute a propaganda line designed to maintain the strength of the BKI within Albanian emigre circles.

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Assistant Director
Special Operations

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